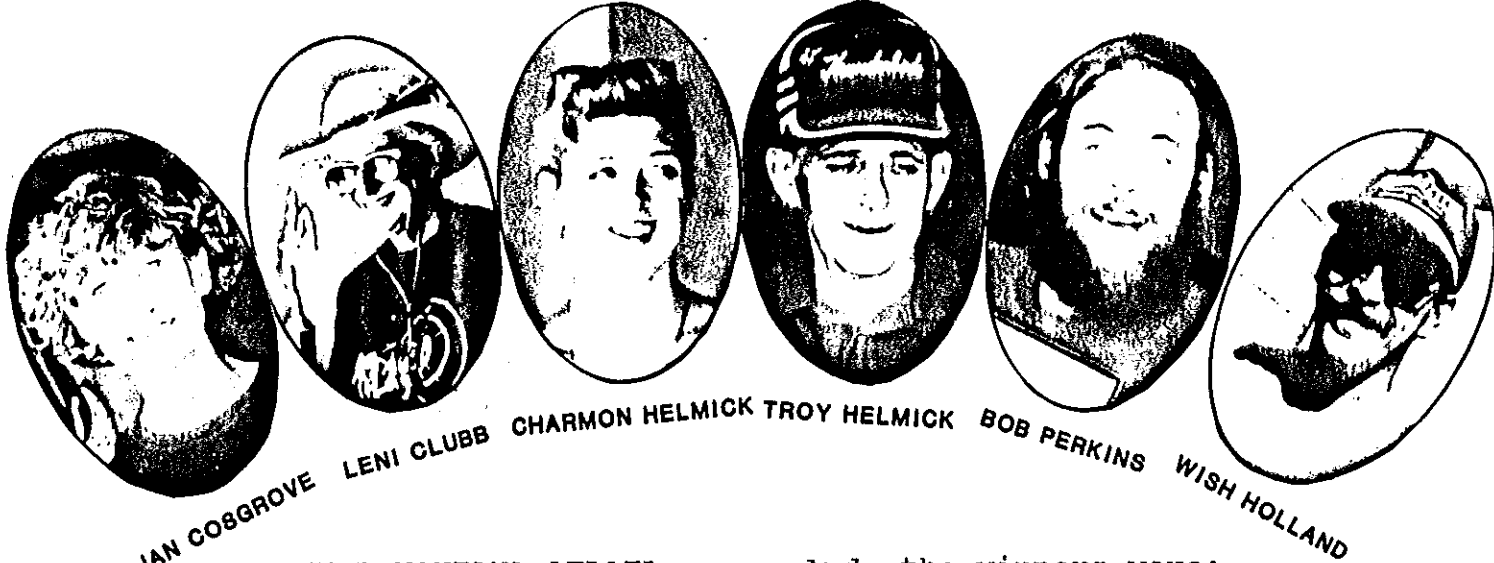


The ATLATL

FALL, 1991

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION, INC.
1390 SOUTH PARIS COURT, AURORA, COLORADO 80012, USA



JAN COSGROVE LENI CLUBB CHARMON HELMICK TROY HELMICK BOB PERKINS WISH HOLLAND

3RD ANNUAL MONTANA ATLATL MAMMOTH HUNT By Leni Clubb

It was another fine day in Helena for the Third Annual Montana Atlatl MammotH Hunt. The event was held on August 3rd, 1991 at the home of Manuel and Helen White. Due to advance publicity on Helena's Channel 12 TV, and excellent coverage by the local newspaper, the contest drew a crowd of spectators from the region. Members of the World Atlatl Association quickly seized the opportunity to promote the sport and encourage a number of on-lookers to "just try it." As a result, eighteen persons entered the contest. Adding to the excitement, a television reporter/cameraman videotaped the affair and interviewed several members of WAA about this new to the public, "new" sport. Manuel White promised to tape the TV news and I hope to make a copy for the WAA files.

And, the winners were:

UNDER 16:

Brad Robertson, Great Falls,
WOMEN:

1st Charmon Helmick, Townsend
2nd Leni Clubb, Ocotillo, CA
3rd Jan Cosgrove, Oklahoma City

MEN:

1st Troy Helmick, Townsend, MT
2nd Bob Perkins, Manhattan, MT
3rd Lynn "Wish" Holland,
Missoula, MT

LONG DISTANCE THROW

WOMEN, Charmon Helmick --68.6
meters (225 feet)

MEN, Paul Leininger, Belgrade,
MT, 125.6 meters (412 feet)

UNDER 16, Brad Robertson, 42.7
meters (140 feet)

MIGHTIEST HUNTER:

1991 STATE CHAMPION

Bob Perkins

Following the contest, Helen White served all contestants an excellent meal of venison stew complete with biscuits and corn on the cob. The White's hospitality is unsurpassed. Thanks again to Manuel and Helen for a really great time!!

3RD ANNUAL EASTERN SEABOARD ATLATL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN PENNSYLVANIA, JULY 20, 1991

Children's Division (13 & under)

ACCURACY	CLOSEST TO PIN	DISTANCE	OVERALL CHAMPION
1st - Brett Cowan	1st - Tony Reese	1st - Ben Lago	1st - Tim Reese
2nd - Ben Lago	2nd - Tim Reese	2nd - Tim Reese	2nd - Tony Reese
3rd - Tim Reese	3rd - Adam Mease	3rd - Tony Reese	3rd - Ben Lago
4th - tie, Tony Reese Jesse Wells	4th - Brett Cowan	4th - Ben Fogelman	Winning total 7 -
6th - tie, Ben Fogelman Jared Swancer	5th - Ben Fogelman	5th - Brett Cowan	
8th - tie, Adam Mease Emily Lago	6th - Ben Lago	6th - Adam Mease	
	7th - Emily Lago	7th - Jesse Wells	
	8th - Jesse Wells	8th - Emily Lago	
	9th - Jared Swancer	9th - Jared Swancer	
Winning Point Total - 61	Winning Throw - 11"	Winning Throw - 71 yds, 1'8"	

Women's Division

ACCURACY	CLOSEST TO PIN	DISTANCE	OVERALL CHAMPION
1st - Elaine Swancer	1st - Cindee Lago	1st - Elaine Swancer	1st - Elaine S.
2nd - JoAnne Fogelman	2nd - Elaine Swancer	2nd - Cindee Lago	2nd - Cindee Lago
3rd - Laura Swancer	3rd - Cindy Cowan	3rd - JoAnne Fogelman	3rd - JoAnne F.
4th - Cindee Lago	4th - JoAnne Fogelman	4th - Laura Swancer	Winning Pt. Total 4
5th - Kathy Reese	5th - Laura Swancer	5th - Kathy Reese	
6th - Cindy Cowan	6th - Kathy Reese	6th - Cindy Cowan	
7th - Patty Wells	7th - Patty Wells	7th - Patty Wells	
Winning pt. total - 36	Winning Throw - 46 3/8"	Winning Throw - 102 yds, 1'	

Men's Division

ACCURACY	CLOSEST TO PIN	DISTANCE	OVERALL CHAMPION
1st - John Swancer	1st - F. Swancer	1st - G. Fogelman	1st - G. Fogelman
2nd - Frank Swancer	2nd - D. Lago	2nd - J. Swancer	2nd - J. Swancer
3rd - Gary Fogelman	3rd - G. Fogelman	3rd - C. Cowan	3rd - F. Swancer
4th - Morse Reese	4th - D. Gericke	4th - J. Lehota	Winning pt. Total - 7
5th - Charlie Cowan	G. Wells	5 - M. Reese	
6th - Dale Gericke	6th - B. Cowan	6th - D. Kenney	
7th - Greg Wells	7th - J. Swancer	7th - F. Swancer	
Dan Lago	8th - G. Noel	8th - G. Wells	
9th - Dan Kenny	9th - C. Cowan	9th - D. Gericke	
10 - John Carlson	10 - J. Carlson	10 - D. Lago	
Bob Cowan	11 - J. Lahota	11 - J. Carlson	
12 - G. Noel	12 - G. Grove	12 - D. Hunt	
13 - J. Lahota	13 - D. Kenney	13 - G. Noel	
14 - G. Grove	14 - M. Reese	14 - B. Cowan	
15 - D. Hunt	15 - D. Hunt	G. Grove	
Winning Pt. Total - 58	Winning Throw - 11"	Winning Throw - 127 yds, 1'6"	

Current ESAC Records (yr.)

Total points, accuracy	G. Fogelman - 63 (90)	J. Fogelman - 65 (90)	B. Cowan - 61 (91)
Distance	J. Swancer - 134 Yds (90)	E. Swancer - 120 yds. (90)	B. Lago - 71 Yds, 2' (91)
Closest to Pin	F. Swancer - 11" (91)	C. Lago - 46 3/8" (91)	T. Reese - 11" (91)

INFORMATION FURNISHED BY GARY FOGELMAN, INDIAN-ARTIFACT MAGAZINE.

Charley Lilly, WAA Secretary has made some interesting observations of various darts being used in the 1991 Colorado Archaeological Society's Annual Encampment atlatl contest. Charley measured the percentage of weight for each of the darts occurring at the front (DISTAL) or Point end as compared to the rear (PROXIMAL).

ATLATL	PROXIMAL/DISTAL	DART LENGTH	COMMENTS
Boney Cosyleon	47.5 / 52.5	184 cm, 72.5 in.	
Les Herman	45 / 55	139.6 cm, 51 in.	
Leni Clubb	40 / 60	172.7 cm, 68 in.	
Tom Arbogast	52 / 48	155 cm, 61 in.	
Dick Laingor	45 / 55	188 cm, 74 in.	Clubb dart
Lee Lacey	44 / 56	183.6 cm, 72.4 in.	
Don Tucker	46 / 54	161.2 cm, 63.5 in.	Montana copper pt.
.....other darts measured.....			
Tate Standard	48 / 52	140.3 cm, 55.25 in.	Fiberglass
Tate "Pro-Cast"	46 / 54	140.3 cm, 55.25 in.	Carbon
BPS Mammoth Hunter	45 / 55	177.3 cm, 69.8 in.	Aluminum

BACK ISSUES OF THE ATLATL AVAILABLE:

Summer, 1988 -- Vol. 1, No. 1
 Winter, 1988 -- Vol. 1, No. 2
 Spring, 1989 -- Vol. 2, No. 1
 Summer, 1989 -- Vol. 2, No. 2
 Fall, 1989 -- Vol. 2, No. 3
 Winter, 1990 -- Vol. 3, No. 1
 Summer, 1990 -- Vol. 3, No. 2
 Fall, 1990 -- Vol. 3, No. 3
 Spring, 1991 -- Vol. 4, No. 1
 Summer, 1991 -- Vol. 4, No. 2
 Current 1991 -- Vol. 4, No. 3

For WAA membership \$10.00 per person, or for other membership information and to purchase back issues of the Newsletter, contact: WAA Secretary, Charles Lilly, 8800 State Hwy. 133, Carbondale, CO 81623. Back issues are \$4.00 each.

Please submit materials for inclusion in "The ATLATL" to

Newsletter Editor, Bill Tate, 1390 S. Paris Court, Aurora, CO 80012.

For other information, contact WAA President, Tim Boucher, P.O. Box 2508, Dillon, CO 80233.

ADVERTISEMENT

10% DISCOUNT

WAA MEMBERS RECEIVE 10% DISCOUNT ON PURCHASES OF ATLATLS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FROM THE FOLLOWING FIRMS:

BPS Engineering, Box 797, Manhattan, Montana 59741, phone (406) 284-3307. BPS Engineering is the maker of the "Mammoth Hunter", "High Plains", and "Warrior" atlatl systems. Call or write for details.

Contact Bill Tate of Tate Enterprises Unlimited, Inc., P. O. Box 440003, Aurora, CO 80044-0003, phone (303) 755-5591. for information on the SpearChucker atlatl kits, Atlatl books and primitive skills books.

Call or write to Bob Beane of Bowwoods Five, 1821 Redwing St., San Marcos, California 92069, phone (619)

744-9797. Bob makes the Sand Dune Cave Atlatl Set. Call or write for information.

Contact Lou Becker of Bowspout Archery, 5940 Urban Drive, Marine City, MI 48039, (313) 765-4717. Lou makes atlatl systems for youths and adults.

Other WAA members making atlatls or related equipment are encouraged to place their short advertisements in this newsletter on a space available basis at no cost. All we ask is that you offer a 10% discount to other WAA members.

Members wanting a "lift" should place a telephone call to Keith Abernathy's home during the day when he is at work at the Denver Museum of Natural History. His answering machine will reply: "You have reached the habitation site of J. Keith Abernathy. I am currently out hunting and gathering, but I will contact you when my journey is done. Please leave your name and number following the omnipotent "beep." Here it comes...."

FROM BELGIUM

THE 2ND CHAMPIONSHIP OF PREHISTORIC SPEAR THROWING AND ARCHERY COMPETITION

Although received too late for notifying North American members of WAA, (In fact the notice was received only two days prior to the event.) we thought the membership would still enjoy seeing just what our European members are doing and how their competition works.

2nd BELGIAN PREHISTORIC SPEAR THROWING AND ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIP, 2ND PART, Musee du Malgre-tout, Treignes, September 22nd, 1991.

AIMS: the prehistoric weapons contests were created

to improve our knowledge of certain hunting and or war shooting weapons which were used in prehistory. The purpose is to compare results of various experiments relative to the materials, shapes and gestures which could have existed in prehistory. The weapons which will be used for this 2nd Belgian Championship are the spearthrower and bow.

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION: The contest is open to everyone with no distinction of sex or nationality, who has registered and paid the registration fee of 100 Belgian Francs before September 15, 1991.

By his/her signature on the registration form, which is compulsory, each participant admits full liability for any damage to persons or property arising from his/her participation in this contest. Under-age participants must provide a statement signed by a parent or guardian confirming same.

To avoid confusion during recovery of spears, each competitor must have his own equipment, clearly bearing his name.

In the interest of safety, and to ensure a high standard of competition, participants should have a certain degree of experience in the use of their equipment.

DEFINITIONS AND CONFORMITY STANDARDS: There are no restrictions as to shape and size of equipment used, however it is advisable that the equipment should be similar to the prehistoric or ethnographic models known. Metals, plastics, synthetic materials and derivatives are strictly forbidden. Moreover the manufacturing techniques must

be compatible with the technological potential in prehistory. This does not exclude the use of modern machinery to make the equipment, so long as a similar result may be obtained with prehistoric techniques. Participants may have spare equipment in case of breakage, but it must have the same characteristics as the main equipment. The conformity of the equipment (main and spare) will be controlled by the members of the jury and will be validated by a control mark.

SPEAR: Projectile formed by a long narrow shaft of organic material, made of one or several parts. One extremity is either sharpened or is formed by a point of hard organic or lithic material, stuck with glues and or bindings in natural materials which could have been used in prehistory. This projectile may be fitted with fletching of natural feathers stuck as mentioned above.

SPEAR THROWER: Weapon made to throw projectiles such as spears. It is made of a stick or small plank of organic material, ending at the distal end by a support (hook, spur, or cul-de-sac) onto which the base of the spear's shaft is seated, and presenting on the proximal end a part which is more or less fitted for holding. The support device can be carved from the block or added on, in which case it must be stuck with glues and or bindings in natural materials which could have been used in prehistory.

ORGANIZATION OF THE EVENTS: Target shooting distances will be 10, 20, and 30 meters. Each competitor will be allowed 10 throws of

one projectile for each one of the 3 distances. In order to be as close as possible to hunting/fighting principles, only the projectiles which become fixed into the targets will be considered valid. The targets used are of a neutral colour, divided into five concentric zones respectively worth, from the outside towards the center: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 points. The specification of each target are indicated below:

A hit on a line separating two zones will be given the higher point value. The score for each event will be calculated as follows:

<u>Number of hits</u>	<u>Points scored</u>
Number of throws	Possible points

Example: If a competitor places 20 projectiles in the three targets and thus gets a total of 90 points he will have the following score:

$$20/30 \times 90/150 = 0.40$$

The center of each target is clearly indicated by a small disc of contrasting colour. The limits of the concentric zones are indicated by a simple line. The base of the targets will be 10 cm. off the ground.

JUDGING: The judging will be done by a jury composed of a minimum of three members who will not take part in the contest.

CLASSIFICATION: A feminine classification will be established for the events in which at least five female competitors will take part.

(Ed. note. We thank WAA member, Pierre Cattelain, Director of the Center D'Etudes et de Documentation Archeologiques, Musee du Malgre Tout for the above information and sincerely hope he can

present us with a report on the contest results for our next issue.

Possibly someday, some of the North American members can attend this or other similar European events. I certainly would like to volunteer to represent this continent. Maybe someday... when my "ship comes in." (When that happens, I'll probably be waiting at the depot.)

NOTHING IN FINE PRINT IS EVER GOOD NEWS. (Andy Rooney)

It takes just as much energy to wish as it does to plan.

If you tell the truth you don't have to remember what you said.

Your editor attended the Summer quarterly meeting of the Colorado Archaeological society, held in Gunnison, Colorado, the birthplace of the Society. Attending the meeting were many of the first members of the organization and students of its founder, C. T. Hurst. Two of the old timers reminisced about their first experiences with the atlatl while students at Western State College, Joe Hondricks, and Tom Lynch. Tom noted the following on paper for our newsletter.

EARLY HURST ATLATL HISTORY

July '46 -- Joe and I were all excited when we took our new made atlatls out to throw. We were on the lawn in front of Taylor Hall. There were some archery targets set up in the mid-section away from the trees. We tried various distances, but found we could hit some where within the target vicinity at 40 - 45 feet. We also tried a few trees to see how deep the

points penetrated. We were closer to the trees, maybe 20 - 25 feet. I had a long quartzite spear blade that I found while digging potatoes in a field down near Cell Bola Creek. Joe used one of his own creations. We played around several times with the atlatls. Now I don't recall what ever happened to them, except that Marie Wormington (world famous Denver based archaeologist) got my point for display in Denver.

SPRING BOAR HUNT IN GEORGIA

By now, most of you have already heard about the big boar hunt on the Buckhorn Creek Ranch, Vidalia, Georgia. It seems onions aren't the only things Vidalia, Georgia has to offer. We recently received word of what probably is the first atlatl hunt for wild boar since the stone age. The hunt is scheduled for March 1992 and the ranch can only accommodate about 40 hunters with their families.

In keeping with the spirit of this primitive sport, Steve Coleman, ranch owner and hunt organizer desires that atlatls and darts used in the hunt be made of natural materials. They will allow metal dart points, however.

There is a \$75.00 fee per hunter for the two day event with a limit of one boar. A second boar may be taken on the second day for an additional \$50.00 fee. All hunters must sign an insurance release form prior to engaging in the hunt. No video equipment will be allowed beyond the campground. To register for this event, contact Steve Coleman, Buckhorn Creek Ranch, Rt. 2, Box 312-k, Vidalia, GA 30474. Phone (912) 537-7553 work, or (912) 583-2737 home.

Wayne Brian, WAA member and long distance atlatl shooter, is also a potter who reproduces primitive pottery. All raw materials are gathered from the field. He then uses the centuries-old method of construction, coiling and scraping, to form the pots. Painting is done with natural pigments and a yucca brush. The love of art and an admiration for the ancient potters combined with many years of research has resulted in a renaissance of a vanishing part of our native cultural heritage.

The following pottery was created especially for World Atlatl Association members, and will be produced in limited numbers. Pots of this size would normally sell for between \$120.00 and \$165.00, but for WAA members, the price is \$80.00 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling. That is at least one third below the regular price.



The upper bowl is patterned after Hohokam, Sacaton Phase, red on buff, and is ten inches in diameter and two inches high. Reproduced

from two sherds, the center was missing, but possibly looked like what is done here.

The bottom bowl is classic Mimbres polychrome, ten inches in diameter and three and a half inches high. The Mimbres were the most outstanding artists of the prehistoric Southwest and often depicted events from every day life in their picture bowls. They probably did one similar to this one.

Wayne also has a \$3.00 catalog and price list for 35 other pots available. To order the pots above, or the catalog, contact: Wayne Brian, Primitive Pottery Proc., 824 W. Kiva, Mesa, AZ 85210, or call Wayne, (602) 491-8460.

(Ed. note: Marcia and I already own a collection of Wayne's pots and highly recommend them to any appreciative audience.)

ATLATL HUNT STUDY IN NEW YORK by Bill Tate

What is it with Saratoga? First, we have the Atlatl World Open held for many years in Saratoga, Wyoming, and now we have the only man in the United States with a special license to hunt big game with an atlatl and dart living in Saratoga Springs, New York. Harvey A. Tallman, of Saratoga Springs was recently granted a special permit by the state of New York for anthropological study in hunting deer with this ancient weapon system.

For the several years, Harvey has been researching the atlatl while working toward getting his anthropology degree. He has developed a number of very interesting and innovative, and occasionally

controversial, ideas concerning early use of the atlatl and dart. One of the more interesting concepts he has developed is the use of animal (presumably deer) leg bone segments as sleeves to rigidly connect sections of darts. Straight shafts are most difficult to obtain and those which he straightens seem to re-acquire their natural curve after only a couple of days. Did Paleo man use this method of making longer darts out of short bits of hard wood? It might be something for the archaeologists to consider should they come across short sleeve-like bits of leg bone. Another interesting innovation of Harvey Tallman's, is his use of rawhide instead of feathers for fletching.

Harvey also has opinions about dart and atlatl length based upon the stature of the user. He feels that the atlatl should be about the length of a mans arm from the arm pit to between the heel of the hand and the middle finger. Darts should be approximately the man's height minus his head.

Tallman states that he can manufacture an atlatl in just

about 20 minutes, and a dart in an hour with nothing more than his pocket knife and some string. Like your editor, he feels that the atlatl and dart is a real survival weapon and wishes the military would recognize it as such in their wilderness training exercises.

Among the problems facing atlatlists is a serious sports related shoulder ailment known to physicians as rotator cuff injury. Tallman's Doctor thought he must have been a baseball pitcher to have such a classic disorder. In his discussions with me, Tallman brought up a theory that Paleo man must have suffered similar injuries. If his rotator cuff complaint permits, he plans to bag his animal in the next couple of months using totally primitive equipment. Although he believes that Paleo man could stop an animal from as much as 35 yards, Tallman hopes for a shot from about 20 yards, a distance at which he feels most secure of his own abilities. We can expect to hear more from Harvey Tallman on his hunt in a future issue of "The Atlatl."

